

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. - 13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended): A method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing unit, comprising the steps of:

- acquiring spectral data which indicates an input color;
- acquiring characteristic information of the image processing unit;
- determining a color data format of color data in accordance with the acquired characteristic information of the image processing unit to output the color data to the image processing unit;
- generating the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and
- outputting the generated color data to the image processing unit,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and

wherein said generating step includes calculating the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in said determining step, and said outputting step

includes outputting the acquired spectral data to the image processing unit when the spectral data format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of color component data are generated by convolution calculation of the spectral data and a color matching function.

17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of acquiring characteristic information includes acquiring the information, for which the color data format is determined, from the image processing unit.

18. (currently amended): A computer program product stored in a computer readable medium comprising computer program code for a method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing unit, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring spectral data which indicates an input color;

acquiring characteristic information of the image processing unit;

determining a color data format of color data in accordance with the acquired characteristic information of the image processing unit to output the color data to the image processing unit;

generating the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

outputting the generated color data to the image processing unit, wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and

wherein said generating step includes calculating the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in said determining step, and said outputting step includes outputting the acquired spectral data to the image processing unit when the spectral data format is determined as the color data format in said determining step.

19. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for performing color processing to output color data to an image processing unit, comprising:

an acquiring section, arranged to obtain spectral data which indicates an input color and to acquire characteristic information of the image processing unit;

a determiner, arranged to determine a color data format of color data in accordance with the acquired characteristic information of the image processing unit to output the color data to the image processing unit;

a generator, arranged to generate the color data having the determined color data format from the acquired spectral data; and

an outputting section, arranged to output the generated color data to the image processing unit,

wherein the color data format includes a spectral data format and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and

wherein said generator calculates the plurality of color component data from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format by said determiner, and said outputting section outputs the acquired spectral data to the image processing unit when the spectral data format is determined as the color data format in said determiner.